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ABSTRACT

An overview of the United States-Israel Educational Foundation is presented. The aim of the foundation is to support educational exchange activities between Israel and the United States. The three primary means of achieving this interchange are: support for the broadening of individual skills in specific areas of learning: strengthening the institutions of higher learning in both countries: and reinforcement of the linkages between the academic communities of both countries. The program that serves the largest number of actual or potential students is the student counseling component. The primary program focus is exchange of scholars as articulated by the Fulbright Act of 1944 and the Fulbright-Hays Act of 1961. The organization of the foundation, which is housed in the United States Embassy in Tel Aviv, and the nature of U.S. Government involvement are outlined. (SW)

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# THE FULBRIGHT PROGRAM IN ISRAEL

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The United States - Israel Educational Foundation (USIEF) is a non-profit, independent organization housed in the United States Embassy in Tel Aviv. USIEF was established by agreement between the governments of Israel and the United States under the terms of the Fulbright Act of 1944 and the Fulbright-Hays Act of 1961. As is common in countries with a Fulbright commission, Israel and the United States participate equally in administering the USIEF program. USIEF is administered by a Board of Directors, composed of both Israelis and Americans. The American Ambassador is the honorary chairman of the Board - but it is the Board through an appointed Executive Secretary that conducts the day to day activities of the Foundation as USIEF is also known.

The aim of the Foundation is to support educational exchange activities between Israel and the United States. The three primary means of achieving this interchange are:

1. support for the broadening of individual skills in specific areas of learning

2. strenghtening the institutions of higher learning in both countries
3. reinforce the linkages between the academic communities of Israel and the United States

In considering project proposals and in the awarding of travel grants, preference is given to applied behavorial and physical sciences, technology, communications, management and manpower studies, teaching of English as a foreign language, American Studies, and the humanities.

U.S. GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT

The Board of Foreign Scholarships (BFS) was created in 1947 by the U.S. government and charged by the original Fulbright Act with the responsibility of selecting scholars, students and educational institutions qualified to participate in the Fulbright program, and to supervise the exchange program authorized in the program. The BFS still plays that important part in the United States. It is the binational commission, in the case of Israel, the Board of Directors of USIEF that proposes which institutions participate in the program and which

scholars receive awards. The two tiered program involves Israelis going to the United States and Americans going to Israel. The requests of institutions in Israel are the basis for the design of an annual program proposal which includes groupings in specific fields. American applicants for these openings are screened and nominated by the Council of International Exchange of Scholars (CIES). Subcommittees of the USIEF Board decide which Israeli scholars and students, of those nominated, are to be selected for BFS approval. The overriding consideration is the quality of the student or scholar. The USIEF program seeks to award grants to the very best and not necessarily in specific areas.

Consultations with the local United States International Communication Agency (USICA) representative, who may be the Cultural Attache, presently a member of the USIEF Board, or the Counselor for Public Affairs at the U.S. Embassy, as well as Israeli and American scholars resident in Israel, are held when designing the annual program proposal.

For almost all of the twenty-two years the program has emphasized full grants to American lecturers and travel and partial grants to younger Israeli scholars and students.

In addition to its regular budget, the Foundation administers the Council of International Programs for Youth Leaders and Social Workers (CIP) program with two to three specialist grants each year. The International Telephone and Telegraph scholarship program is another program also administered by USIEF. (The budget allocation for fiscal 1975-1978 can be found in Addendum 2).

STUDENT COUNSELING PROGRAM

The program which serves the largest number of actual or potential students is the student counseling component of the Foundation's activity. The Foundation employes one full time student advisor who is knowledgeable, and has the latest reference material of undergraduate, graduate, professional and post secondary education in the United States.

On a daily basis, Monday through Friday, anywhere from eight to thirty students come to the Foundation office for advice, counsel, to peruse through catalogs, reference works, or to avail themselves to the various standardized testing programs common to U.S. higher education. The advisor proctors most Educational Testing Service (ETS) tests. In 1978 the counseling service provided information to 1,217 graduate students and 1,272 undergraduate students. Most of the students were Israelis desiring information about U.S. campuses, but a sizeable number were Americans resident in Israel or temporarily in Israel seeking information on American, Israeli, or other universities.

Israeli students interested in esoteric fields such as sports medicine or underwater welding regularly come in the USIEF office searching for the educational program in the U.S. that meets their requirements. Hard statistics as to how many students ultimately find their way to the United States are not easily obtainable, but the percentages appear to be less than 30 percent. The limited resources of the Foundation necessitate expenditures on the

priorities set forth by the Board. Since the primary focus is exchange of scholars as articulated by the Fulbright Act of 1944 and the Fulbright-Hays Act of 1961, the funding of the student personnel service of the Foundation is limited to grants from the United States International Communication Agency. In its 1980 budget request USICA has asked for a substantial increase in funds for this activity.

The ties that bind the United States to Israel are most important and educational interchange is one avenue of strengthening the mutuality of developments and achievements of the peoples of the two countries in the field of education. This interchange of scholars and students further assists the development of friendly, sympathetic and productive relations between the United States and Israel.

The furthering of bilateral educational relations between the United States and other countries is a vital link in the complex field of intercultural interdependent living and as USIEF and other Fulbright

Commissions worldwide attempt to foster successful intercultural experiences, this may hold the key to future peaceful relations between the United States and other nations. Israel and the United States are close in many ways and certainly the role of USIEF has had its small, but important, impact in the mutual interdependence the United States and Israel share.

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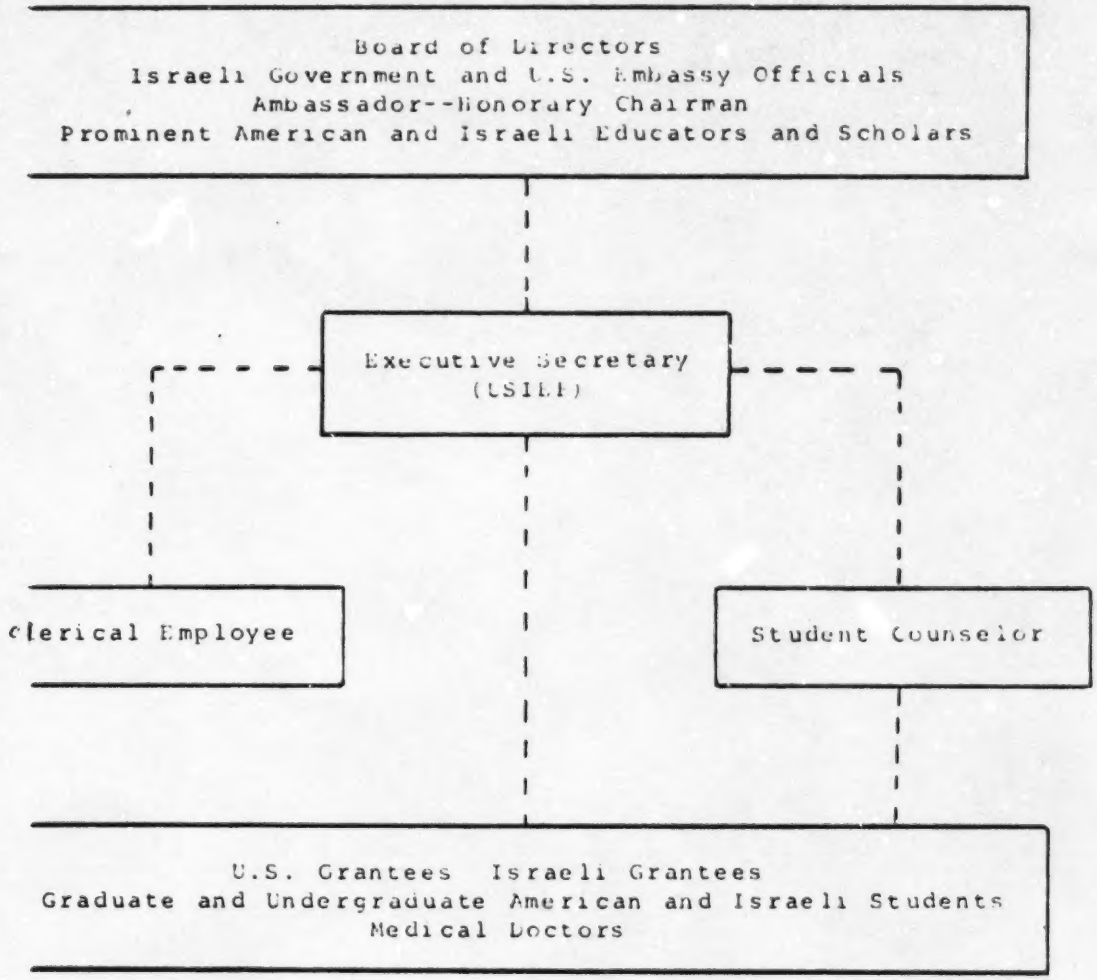
ADDENDUM 1

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART OF USIEF



## BUDGET ALLOCATION
## 1975-1978

| 1975 | | 1976 | 1977 | 1978 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| USG | $122,636 | $144,427 | $164,594 | $189,677 |
| GOI | 6,836 | 7,612 | 9,838 | 8,369 |
| Total | 129,472 | $152,039 | $174,432 | $198,046 |
| Program | 105,812 | 120,585 | 145,432 | 161,466 |
| Admin | 23,660 | 31,454 | 29,000 | 36,580 |

USG-United States Government
GOI-Government of Israel
Admin-Administrative costs

## GRANTS
## 1975-1978

| Grants to Israelis: | 1975 | 1976 | 1977 | 1978 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Lecturers/Researchers | 7a | 9a | 10a | 12a |
| Specialists/Teachers | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Students | 8a | 8a | 9a | 12a |
| Total | 15a | 17a | 19a | 24a |
| **Grants to Americans:** | | | | |
| Lecturers | 6 | 7 | 8 | 10 |
| Researchers | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4a |
| Students | 3 | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Inter-Country Exchanges b/ | (7) | (7) | (9) | |
| Total | 9 | 9 | 10 | 14 |
| Grand Total | 24 | 26 | 29 | 38 |

a/ Travel only
b/ Not included in totals